

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /200 W

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R 302053Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2779

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FARE//WELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING CORDIAL FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC HE REITERATED KNOWN FRENCH POSITION ON ENERGY AND SEEMED OPTIMISTIC THAT COMPROMISE COULD BE REACHED ON AGRICULTURAL PRICES AT MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN MINISTERS TO BE HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON OCTOBER 2. END SUMMARY.

1. I MADE MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC LATE MORNING SEPTEMBER 30. RE THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON
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THE PRIME

MINISTER SAID HE HAD HAD A TELEPHONE CALL FROM FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES THE PREVIOUS DAY, IN THE MIDDLE OF FRANCE' BUT THE PHONE CONNECTION WAS SO BAD THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND MUCH THEREFORE HE DID NOT YET KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAD HAPPENED AT CAMP DAVID. HE SEEMED CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE ESTABLISHED FRENCH POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED.

2. ENERGY PROGRAM. WHEN I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL THE CONSUMER COUNTRIES WORKING COOPERATIVELY THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING THE IEP. HE COMMENTED THAT IF THE MAJOR CONSUMERS WERE CONFRONTED WITH A SMALL CRISIS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PLAN WAS APPLIED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN HIS VIEW, IF WE WERE CONFRONTED BY A MAJOR CRISIS THE NATIONAL INTERESTS WOULD BE SO GREAT THAT THE PLAN SIMPLY WOULD NOT WORK. HE THEREFORE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE IEP WAS THE REAL ANSWER AND SAID THAT THE GOF "WOULDN'T LIKE TO JOIN SUCH A PLAN AS IT NOW EXISTS." HE ADDED 'HOWEVER, THAT PERHAPS THE CAMP DAVID MEETINGS HAD RESULTED IN CERTAIN CLARIFICATIONS WHICH WOULD MODIFY THE FRENCH POSITION.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT IN HIS VIEW THERE WERE TWO ASPECTS TO ANY SOLUTION. FIRST, THAT THERE MUST BE AN AGREED EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY AND, SECOND, THAT THERE SHOULD BE A MAJOR CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE CONSUMERS AND THE PRODUCERS.

4. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WATCHING THE FUTURE MOVES TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED EUROPE. HE REPLIED THAT EUROPE WAS PRESENTLY FACED WITH A MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS WHICH HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SOLVE. HE EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S FIRM DESIRE TO CONTINUE PROGRESS TOWARD THE "CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23089

I TOLD HIM THAT MY GOVERNMENT
FULLY SUPPORTED EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DESPITE DOUBTS
THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN CERTAIN QUARTERS. THE
PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED THAT IF THEY DID NOT SUCCEED
IN THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS HE WAS AFRAID THEY WOULD
NEVER DO SO.

5. I ASKED HIM HOW HE REGARDED THE RECENT
"MALENTENDU" WITH THE GERMANS ON AGRICULTURAL PRICES.
CHIRAC REPLIED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD INDEED
BEEN HARDER THAN ANTICIPATED AND THAT HE HAD BEEN
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SURPRISED AT THE REACTION HE HAD PROVOKED. THE
GERMANS HAD THREE DEMANDS: (A) THAT THE INCREASE OF

PRICES BE CONSIDERED A PART OF AN INCREASE TO BE ALLOWED NEXT FEBRUARY. CHIRAC SAID TO THIS HE SAID NO. (B) THEY ASK THAT THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY COUNTRIES INCLUDING FRANCE NOT GIVE IN THE FUTURE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE THE WAY FRANCE HAS DONE. TO THIS HE COULD SAY YES. (C) THEY WANTED TO HAVE A COMPLETE RE-EXAMINATION OF THE CAP TO SEE HOW IT WORKS. AGAIN CHIRAC SAID HE HAD REPLIED NEGATIVELY. HE THEN COMMENTED THAT FRANCE COULD AGREE TO A REVIEW IF IT WAS A GENERAL REVIEW TO INCLUDE ALL OF THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF THE COMMON MARKET NOT JUST AGRICULTURAL. IN THAT EVENT IT WAS A REVIEW THAT SHOULD ALSO BE PERFORMED BY THE COMMISSION. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR FRANCE WAS THAT A FIVE PERCENT PRICE INCREASE ON OCTOBER 1 BE AGREED UPON. IF NOT. CHIRAC SAID, "IT WILL BE A REAL CRISIS." HE SEEMED HOPEFUL THAT A COMPROMISE COULD BE REACHED AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG ON OCTOBER 2. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND.

6. BEFORE LEAVING I TOLD HIM HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATED THE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE AND CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE INDICATED HE FULLY SUPPORTED EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIONS.
IRWIN

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